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Dated: 5/25/05

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(Jeannie D. Harris)

Docket No.: 10122/005002
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Toshihiro Fukuda et al.

Application No.: 10/751,037

Art Unit: 3611

Filed: December 31, 2003

Examiner: D. G. Depumpo

For: MOTOR-OPERATED POWER STEERING
DEVICE

REPLY UNDER 37 CFR §1.111

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated January 25, 2005, please reconsider this application in view of the following.

DESCRIPTION

ELECTRICALLY DRIVEN POWER STEERING APPARATUS

5 Technical Field

 The present invention relates to a vehicle power steering apparatus using an electric motor.

Background Arts

 One known type of an electrically driven power steering
10 apparatus of a vehicle is ~~that~~ a ball screw nut into which
a rack shaft of a rack-and-pinion steering apparatus is
inserted, is rotated by an electric motor coaxial with the
rack shaft, and a rotational output thereof is converted
into a thrust in the longitudinal direction of the rack shaft
15 through a ball screw mechanism.

 In this type of electrically driven power steering
apparatus, the ball screw nut is so supported as to be rotatable
with respect to a housing, which involves the use of bearings.
These bearings are disposed at both side ends of the ball
20 screw nut and provided with presser members for preventing
the bearings from coming off the ball screw nut.

 The presser member is formed with a female thread
meshing with a male thread formed on an outer periphery of
the ball screw nut. The presser member is thus screwed to
25 the ball screw nut and thus prevents the bearing from coming
off.

 By the way, for example, in a general type of